

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been rewritten as follows:

Paragraph [0001] has been rewritten as follows:

[0001] This application is related to commonly owned, co-pending U.S. ~~patent application~~ Patent Application Ser. No. 10/771,916, pending, _____ (~~Attorney Docket No. DP 309400~~) filed on even date and entitled "Halogen-Free Fire Retardant System For Low Heat Release Polymers," the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety as if completely set forth herein below.

Paragraph [0022] has been rewritten as follows:

[0022] In another embodiment of the present invention, the fire resistant additive is as described in related U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 10/771,916, pending, and [[_____]] entitled "Halogen Free Fire Retardant System For Low Heat Release Polymers," filed on even date herewith, and incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. As described therein, compounds based on nitrogen chemistry (for example melamine cyanurate or ammonium cyanurate) or nitrogen phosphorus chemistry (such as ammonium polyphosphate or melamine pyrophosphate) can be formulated with other ingredients to produce intumescent formulations for the battery case 10 that not only are efficient as fire retardants but also are efficient in reducing the heat release rate, during burning, of polymers to which they are added. In this embodiment, these nitrogenous gas-generating agents may form 5-25 parts by weight of the fire resistant additive. A combination of resins is used as a polymeric binder for the intumescent fire retardant

ingredients to provide desirable physical properties for the fire resistant additive and for the polymeric material to which the additive is added. The polymeric binder forms 20-45 parts by weight of the fire resistant additive. High density polyethylene (HDPE) is used in the binder for its strength, durability, low cost, high impact resistance and high chemical resistance. An α -olefin-containing copolymer may also be used in the binder for added impact strength. In a further exemplary embodiment, the fire resistant additive for the composition of the battery case 10 of the present invention includes 20-45 parts by weight of HDPE and 0-15 parts by weight of the α -olefin-containing copolymer for a total polymeric binder content of 20-45 parts. The fire resistant additive further includes 10-35 parts by weight of one or more water vapor-generating agents for intumescence, 1-5 parts by weight of an antioxidant for heat stability, and optionally, up to 15 parts by weight of a reinforcing agent. The fire resistant additive may be added in any desired amount, for example in an amount of 10-50 parts by weight and advantageously 20-45 parts by weight, to a moldable base polymer to achieve a desired balance between physical properties and flammability performance.